

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 126038

FOLLOWING REPEAT LUSAKA 1761 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ACCRA
BRAZZAVILLE BUJUMBURA KIGALI KINSHASA LONDON LUBUMBASHI
LIBREVILLE LISBON MOSCOW PARIS RABAT ROME USUN NEW YORK
HAVANA USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN MAY 17.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 1761

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS MOPS PBOR CG ZA
SUBJ: SHABA INCURSIONS - ZAMBIAN VIEWS

REF: (A) STATE 125192, (B) STATE 124005, (C) LUSAKA 1755

1. CHARGE MET WITH UNDER SECRETARY ZIMBA MAY 17 TO DISCUSS
POINTS MADE IN REFTEL A. ALSO PASSED TO HIM INFORMATION
ABOUT CONTINGENCY ALERT MEASURES TAKEN REGARDING 82ND AIR-
BORNE AND INFO ON ZAIRIAN AIR DROP (REFTEL B).

2. ZIMBA, WHO IS COORDINATING POINT FOR GRZ ACTIONS RE-
GARDING SHABA, SAID THAT HE AND OTHERS IN GRZ UNDERSTOOD
WHY USG WOULD PUT UNITS OF 82ND AIRBORNE ON ALERT--THAT
THIS WAS OUT OF HUMANITARIAN CONSIDERATIONS. HE ASKED THAT
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HE BE INFORMED IF STEPS WERE TAKEN TO USE THE 82ND.

3. ON REFUGEES, ZIMBA SAID ZAMBIAN IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES
HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO DO EVERYTHING TO BE HELPFUL IN THE
EVENT THAT EUROPEANS WERE EVACUATED FROM SHABA. CLEARANCES
FOR AIRCRAFT TRANSPORTING EVACUEES ARE TO BE GIVEN EXPEDITIOUSLY.
HOWEVER, HE STRESSED THAT CLEARANCES WOULD BE FOR CIVILIAN

AIRCRAFT ONLY. ZIMBA SAID THAT BRITISH HAD ALREADY REQUESTED PERMISSION FOR SOME OF THEIR CITIZENS TO PROCEED TO ZAMBIA FROM ZAIRE. ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE FOR SMALL AIRCRAFT TO LAND AT NDOLA WHERE THEIR CLEARANCE WOULD BE EXPEDITED BY ZAMBIAN IMMIGRATION. HE ASKED THAT I KEEP HIM INFORMED ON AN URGENT BASIS OF ANY PLANS TO EVACUATE AMERICANS TO ZAMBIA.

4. ZIMBA FLATLY DENIED THAT THE GRZ CONDONED KATANGAN INFILTRATION ACROSS ZAMBIAN SOIL WHILE ADMITTING THAT THIS MIGHT HAVE TAKEN PLACE WITHOUT ZAMBIA'S KNOWLEDGE. ON HIS RECOMMENDATION, DECISION HAD BEEN MADE BY GRZ TO RESPOND TO ALL ZAIRIAN ACCUSATIONS ON THIS SCORE IN A LOW KEY. BY SO DOING GRZ HOPED TO KEEP DAMAGE TO ZAMBIAN-ZAIRIAN RELATIONS TO A MINIMUM.

5. PRESIDENT KAUNDA SCHEDULED STOP IN LUANDA MAY 24 HAD BEEN PLANNED AS ANOTHER STEP IN ZAMBIA'S ATTEMPT TO ACT AS AN INTERMEDIARY BETWEEN ZAIRE AND ANGOLA. ZIMBA WAS UNCERTAIN IF THIS STOP WOULD NOW TAKE PLACE. VISIT BY KAUNDA AT THIS TIME MIGHT BE MISINTERPRETED AS SUPPORT FOR ANGOLA IN ITS TROUBLES WITH ZAIRE.

6. COMMENT: WE SHOULD NOT TAKE ZIMBA'S ASSURANCES THAT GRZ WOULD UNDERSTAND MOTIVATIONS SHOULD AMERICAN FORCES BE USED TO EVACUATE EUROPEANS FROM SHABA AT FACE VALUE.
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HE MIGHT UNDERSTAND, BUT THE POSSIBILITY IS GREAT THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD FEEL COMPELLED TO CONDEMN SUCH INTERVENTION AS UNWARRANTED INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS.
CLINGERMAN UNQUOTE VANCE

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